



For Immediate Release: September 29, 2016

Contact: Charles B. Pyle, Director of Communications, (804) 371-2420

Seven Virginia Schools Earn National Blue Ribbon Honors

RICHMOND, Va. — Seven Virginia public schools are among the 329 schools named yesterday by U.S. Secretary of Education John B. King Jr. as 2016 National Blue Ribbon Schools. The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors K-12 schools that are either academically superior or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement.

Virginia schools recognized as 2016 National Blue Ribbon Schools are as follows:

- Coeburn Middle in Wise County
- Deer Park Elementary in Newport News
- Green Valley Elementary in Roanoke County
- George W. Carver Elementary in Richmond
- Springfield Estates Elementary in Fairfax County
- Tunstall High in Pittsylvania County
- Watauga Elementary in Washington County

“This is a great honor for these schools,” Superintendent of Public Instruction Steven R. Staples said. “I congratulate the teachers, the principals, the support staff and the students for their hard work and success.”

Six of the seven also earned awards earlier this year through the Virginia Index of Performance program. Deer Park Elementary, Green Valley Elementary and Watauga Elementary earned the Board of Education Excellence Award. George W. Carver Elementary, Springfield Estates Elementary and Tunstall High earned the Board of Education Distinguished Achievement Award.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools are selected based on one of two criteria: performance on state assessments, or in the case of private schools, performance on national standardized tests and high school graduation rates; or performance in closing achievement gaps between a school’s subgroups and all students over the past five years while increasing graduation rates for each subgroup.

The U.S. Department of Education will honor all of the nation’s 2016 National Blue Ribbon Schools during a conference and awards ceremony November 7 and 8 in Washington, DC.

###